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about Peary's proposed expedition. He wrote to offer his services and was asked to present himself. This he did, armed with an English dictionary in one pocket and a Norwegian dictionary in the other, to look up a word, at a pinch :

A young man of African origin, the afterwards illustrious "Matt," showed me into Lieutenant Peary's working-room, where I was most heartily received by the explorer. His whole appearance inspired me with absolute confidence. His tall, lean figure was elastic and sinewy; his features, coarse but determined, were aglow with intrepid resolution.

A less happy adjective than *coarse* could hardly have been found in the two dictionaries; but it was, perhaps, the choice of the translator, Mr. Bull, to whom, also, seems to belong the vulgarism of *Matt, the nigger*, on page 16. On the whole, however, the English is fair, and the book leaves a pleasing impression of its young author.

The paper and print are good; and the illustrations, which include a portrait of Astrup, are well reproduced.

By Way of Cape Horn. Four Months in a Yankee Clipper. By Paul Eve Stevenson, author of "A Deep-Water Voyage." Illustrated from Photographs taken by the Author. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1899.

Many men have made the voyage round Cape Horn, but few undertake it, as Mr. Stevenson did, for pleasure. He says in his preface:

The pleasure which such a voyage affords the fortunate few, in whom there is a real affection for the sea, is quite indescribable. To such there is no monotony, for there is always something interesting and amusing going on aboard ship, if one's eyes are open; the men themselves present an inexhaustible field for study and reflection. . . .

Mr. Stevenson's eyes and mind were open and he saw wonderful things; the peaceful beauty of the ocean under the warmer sky, the strange constellations, the albatross riding the storm, the sunsets off Cape Horn, and even the cape itself, which so few have seen.

On board the ship he studied the officers and the crew in a way that recalls Dana's observations in his *Two Years Before the Mast*; though Dana, as a sailor, was closer to the men whom he studied. They lead a hard life, these men

Housed on the wild sea, with wild usages,
and Mr. Stevenson has to tell of painful scenes of cruelty and

brutality, practised now, as he declares, almost exclusively in the American merchant marine.

The book is well printed and handsomely bound, and the illustrations are uncommonly good.

The Prehistoric Arts, Manufactures, Works, Weapons, etc., of the Aborigines of Australia. Compiled and Collated by Thomas Worsnop, Town Clerk, Adelaide, South Australia: C. E. Bristow, Government Printer, North-Terrace, Adelaide, 1897.

This compilation is the result of efforts continued for twenty-five years, in the intervals of official duty, to rescue from oblivion some of the antiquities of Australia. The preface closes with these words:

I deeply regret my own carelessness in allowing many valuable opportunities to slip which occurred during my early life in this province of recording, and daily, the numerous religious rites and grand festivals I have witnessed, together with occasional discoveries of cave paintings and of carvings, both on rock and on wood. Nevertheless, I trust in the things now recorded sufficient interest will be excited as to press upon the public attention the necessity of attempting in our own time and day the careful collection of copies of every artistic work of the Australian aborigine which may at any time come under personal observation. Failing this, like the tribes themselves, these pictorial records may soon disappear and be no more known.

Mr. Worsnop acknowledges the help received from many persons whom he names, and the bulk of his volume is made up, of course, from the published works of navigators and scholars,—Flinders, Sir George Grey, Brough Smyth and others—; but his own contribution is not insignificant.

Separate chapters are devoted to the native drawings, including tree carvings, cave and rock paintings, with an account of the pigments and their preparation; to sculpture and carvings; to clothing, which in the early days shone by its absence; to native tombs, with description of the funeral ceremonies; to dwellings and sleeping places, with mention of the stone circles, so numerous in Victoria; to domestic utensils, of many kinds and all, particularly the water bags and baskets, showing great ingenuity and skill in manufacture; to road-making, quarries, weapons, navigation, dances, tattooing and games.

In the chapter on road-making is the description of a dam, seen by Ernest Giles in South Australia, lat. $30^{\circ} 43'$, long. $132^{\circ} 44'$:

... On arriving at it we saw that it was a circular wall or dam of clay, nearly 5 feet high, with a segment open to the south to admit and retain the rainwater that occasionally flows over the flat into this artificial receptacle. This wall or dam is the first piece of work of art or usefulness that I have ever seen in Australia, and if I